

SENATE BILL 3743
By Haynes

AN ACT to name a segment of State Route 255 (Donelson Pike) in Davidson County in honor of the late Wrenza Jordan.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those exemplary public servants who contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than the late Wrenza Jordan of Donelson and Hermitage, who distinguished herself as one of Davidson County's finest citizens during her lifetime; and

WHEREAS, a highly successful businesswoman, an accomplished community leader and a devoted mother, Wrenza Jordan was a very gracious and talented lady who won community accolades and statewide recognition during her tenure as Executive Director of the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, originally a saleswoman at the Davis Dress Shop in Donelson Plaza, Mrs. Jordan would eventually accept a position in management and prove instrumental in the founding of the Donelson Plaza Merchants' Association, for which she stood as President in 1971; and

WHEREAS, Wrenza Jordan was also the owner of the Charm Step Modeling School and was especially proud of having overseen the preparation of many young women seeking beauty titles or a career in modeling; two of her protégés would go on to win the Miss Teen USA and the Miss Tennessee scholarship pageants; and

WHEREAS, always an avid supporter of the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce, Wrenza Jordan was elected President of the group in 1973, and named its

“Businesswoman of the Year” in 1982; due to her efforts, membership increased dramatically from 10 to more than 500; and

WHEREAS, named Executive Director of the Chamber in 1977, Mrs. Jordan spent the next sixteen years building the organization into a truly special entity at which both local businesses and residents of the Donelson-Hermitage communities point with pride; and

WHEREAS, instrumental in organizing business expositions and after-hours events for local merchants and business people during her years at the Chamber, Wrenza Jordan was the driving force behind the annual golf tournament, the major fundraiser for the organization, as well as the Chamber’s wonderful Christmas parade; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Wrenza Jordan was the recipient of an Award of Merit from Governor Ned McWherter and was recognized at the Governor’s Conference for Economic and Community Development; and

WHEREAS, Wrenza Jordan also lent her time and talents to numerous civic and charitable groups, including the Donelson Business and Professional Women’s Association, the Stones River Woman’s Club, the March of Dimes, and the Donelson Station Senior Citizens Center; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Jordan was a member of the Tennessee Preservation of the Antiquities, served on the advisory board for the Senior Citizens Association and was honored to receive a lifetime membership from the Ladies Hermitage Association; and

WHEREAS, the impact Mrs. Wrenza Jordan had on the Donelson and Hermitage communities will be felt for generations, and she leaves a lasting legacy of service to the people of her community and the state of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the segment of State Route 255 (Donelson Pike) from its intersection with Lebanon Pike (US Highway 70) southward to its intersection with Elm Hill Pike in Davidson County is hereby designated the “Wrenza Jordan Memorial Highway” as a lasting tribute to an excellent public servant and even more accomplished human being.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating approximately that segment of State Route 255 described in Section 1 as the "Wrenza Jordan Memorial Highway."

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.